

SPASM MUSEUM

Newsletter NOVEMBER 2021

Spasm HealthCare Museum Building 6 Victoria Rd Gladesville
No 1 gate house at the Crown Street bus stop on Victoria Road Gladesville



November has come and we are now able to welcome fully vaccinated members and guests at the Museum. We have group bookings already arranged for February and March.

Page two features a short paper, about the East Radcliffe Ventilator we have at the museum, by our wonderful volunteer Peter Hartigan, pictured here with other regular volunteers, Gary our Curator, Kate and Kerry. Looking forward to getting together again!

During the closure period we have been rearranging the furniture to include new cabinets purchased one donated by the Netflix company. This means we have a whole new line of cabinets in the corridor of building 6.

Our new on line membership renewal page is working well. We have a new member join us from Queensland. A special welcome to Bron Cook who is interested in old medical apparatus and sent a photo of a great Elastoplast case she has acquired, as well as a glass/metal syringe with hypodermic needles in a handsome box with cryptic instructions on the lid stating: 1 Place side tube in urine 2. Squirt urine through needle until barrel has no air bubbles 3 Dispense 5 ml sample 4 Place tube in next urine 5 Squirt four time to waste then take sample . When finished finse four times with tap water . **Use for Shillers only.**

If any of our readers have some more information about either of these objects Bron would love to hear from you.

Our newsletters are now on-line, accessed by a code given to members & friends:
<http://www.spasmmuseum.org.au/newsletters.html>

Visiting the HealthCare Museum in real time or online.

Opening hours for the Museum is normally 11 am – 3pm on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Monday of each month - February to November. **The museum is open with Covid sign in & double vaccination required.**
Contact SPASM by- Phone 0414 993 138

Executive Members : President Sandra Solarz
Curator: Dr. Gary Klopfer
Secretary /Treasurer: Ros Berryman
Volunteer Guides: Val Corcoran, Kate Paton, Dr. Kerry Maroney & Peter Hartigan

Email : spasm@netspace.net.au

SPASM web sites at www.spasmmuseum.org.au

<https://ehive.com/account/5547>

www.discoverhuntershill.com.au/whats-on

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Attendance at a Health Care Museum such as SPASM allows visitors to reflect on the past, to contrast with the present and contemplate the future



Two photograph sent in by Bron who would love more information about these items.

Entry to the Museum takes you to another era: Ventilation



The humidifier

This was made from a domestic pressure cooker. The red knob on the top is simply parked there so it does not get lost, it is used to sterilise the unit. To sterilise the unit it is filled with water and the red knob screwed into the side of the control box (the part sticking out on the left). This overrides the thermostat and allows the unit to boil.



For technical information
These photos was taken from the
web site below
We have both ventilator and
Humidifiers at the museum.
<https://theelectricsquirrel.wordpress.com/2013/11/22/east-radcliffe-ventilator-the-unofficial-manual/>

East Radcliffe Ventilator by Peter Hartigan

In 1902 it was advertised that James Archer and Henry Sturmey invented and patented a 3 speed gear system for bush hikes. If you have ridden a pushbike, you have probably cycled on a bike with Sturmey Hub gears! The design and engineering hidden inside hub is still manufactured today and available 120 years later from your local cycle shop . What a great story. You may ask what this has to do with medical history and the SPASM museum?

In the 1950s extended ventilation times without negative pressure iron lungs became viable and there was a the need for positive pressure (via an endotracheal tube) in intensive care and during anaesthetics.

One of the first of many devices was the East Radcliffe Ventilator. East was the manufacturer, Radcliffe was the hospital name given to the device. Over the first three years the machine proved reliable and simple to service and maintain, (there were no biomedical engineering departments in 1955!) Some ventilators used a variable speed windscreen wiper motor to control respiratory rate. The device was modified to be used as an anaesthetic ventilator and became the standard ventilator in many theatres.

The demise of such truly mechanical ventilators started in the early 1960's with the development of pneumatics to control ventilator functions.

We are lucky enough to have a complete East Radcliffe ventilator on display at SPASM. I wonder how many supporting breaths it delivered in its lifetime?

Corporate Members of SPASM

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Health Care Museum
SPASM

Founded by Prof Ross Holland AM 1928-2017